

**FY-2001 PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK for:**  
Hydrology Support for Water Acquisition

**Project #:**19H

Lead Agency: Water Acquisition Committee

Submitted by: George Smith  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
P.O. Box 25486, DFC, Denver, CO 80225-0486  
Phone: (303) 236-5322  
Fax: (303) 236-4224  
George\_Smith@fws.gov

Date: May 12, 2000

Category:

- ☒ Ongoing project
- ☐ Ongoing-revised project
- ☐ Requested new start

Expected Funding Sources:

- ☒ Annual funds
- ☐ Capital funds
- ☐ Other (explain)

I. Title of Proposal:

Hydrology Support for Water Acquisition Activities

II. Relation to RIPRAP:

The work items proposed support water acquisition activities in the RIPRAP and under the direction of the Water Acquisition Committee.

Colorado River Action Plan: Mainstem

I.A.5. Provide and legally protect instream flows pursuant to Colorado River PBO

I.A.5.a. Deliver Ruedi flows to 15-Mile Reach

I.A.5.i. Coordinated reservoir operations

Green River Action Plan: Mainstem

I.A.4.a.3 Legally Protect Summer/Fall Flows

Green River Action Plan: Yampa and Little Snake Rivers

I. Provide and Protect Instream Flows

III. Study Method/Approach:

This proposal represents a compilation of Division of Water Resources activities to support ongoing hydrology data collection, contract administration, and development of data necessary for the Water Acquisition Committee to assess the acquisition of water. Major activities include: preparing Scopes of Work for WAC projects; preparing contracts and agreements; preparing annual reports; overseeing contract administration; and coordinating ongoing Recovery Program activities.

IV. Study Area:

Colorado and Green River Basins

VI. Study Goals, Objectives, and End Products:

To facilitate Recovery Program activities in the area of water right acquisition, instream flow filings, contract administration, updates to the RIPRAP, and reports of findings.

VI. Task Descriptions:

A. Gage Installation and Maintenance

The Division of Water Resources will continue to work with the U.S. Geological Survey, Bureau of Reclamation, and Colorado Division of Wildlife to maintain the current gage at the head of the 15-Mile Reach of the Colorado River and two gages at Deerlodge Park on the Yampa River. Work will continue on the development and coordination of agreements with the Central Utah Water Conservancy District and USGS for the operation and maintenance of two gages located on the Duchesne River and a temperature probe to be installed on the Jensen gage.

B. Hydrology Support for the Water Acquisition Committee

1. Water Right Acquisition

The Division of Water Resources will continue to support the Water Acquisition Committee in water right investigations as originally envisioned by the Recovery Program. The work will require working with willing sellers and potential lessors to gather information and acquire water rights. This task has become less important recently as water right acquisition has been given less priority and the optimization of existing facilities has become the focus of the Water Acquisition Committee. The tasks listed below are in support of the expanded mission of the Water Acquisition Committee.

- a. Developing scopes of work for water rights evaluations by the water right consultant, and overseeing contract administration, consultant supervision, and review of the consultant's work.
- b. Assisting in the development and negotiation of a long term lease for water from Ruedi Reservoir. Facilitating the annual renewal of the lease and delivery of water from Steamboat Lake.
- c. Coordinating conservation flow releases from Ruedi Reservoir and Steamboat Lake, and advising Tri-State Generation when to begin using storage water (up to 1,000 AF) pursuant to the terms of the Craig III Biological Opinion.

- d. Providing annual reports on the delivery and benefits of flows from Ruedi, and Wolford Mountain reservoirs.
- e. Preparing annual scopes of work and annual reports for projects in support of Water Acquisition Committee activities.

C. Yampa River Reservoir Studies:

Participate in the Yampa River Work Group by providing information on the Section 7 baseline, Yampa River depletions, and channel monitoring. Provide administrative services for the Green-Yampa River sediment monitoring program and provide coordination on the new USGS gages at Deerlodge Park.

D. Coordinated Reservoir Operations:

Provide assistance to Bureau of Reclamation in implementing a monitoring program to follow how peaks develop, and a data base of flow and operational criteria for the coordinated Reservoir operation study. Work will be coordinated with the efforts of the Loveland and Grand Junction offices of Bureau of Reclamation, Denver Water, CWCB, and the State Engineer. Activities will include: representing the Service at coordinated reservoirs work group meetings, assisting in the scheduling of public meetings, reviewing press releases, representing the Recovery Program at public meetings, monitoring runoff, and participating in the scheduling of reservoir releases to enhance peaks.

When coordination is completed, a report will be prepared that summarizes the coordination effort and reviews the results of the channel monitoring effort in the 15-mile Reach. The report will begin to relate the findings of the channel monitoring effort to the findings of the monitoring effort and the biology of the endangered fish life history requirements. Scopes of work and agreements will be prepared to provide for channel monitoring funds for the 15-Mile Reach.

E. General Support Activities:

The Division of Water Resources will participate in technical discussions with the CWCB staff in an effort to clarify and quantify the Services Instream flows for endangered fish. The work will include attending meetings, reviewing reports, providing comments, and reporting back to the Service and the Water Acquisition Committee. This effort is in support of the flow filings outlined in the RIPRAP.

The Division of Water Resources will participate in the Division 5 coordinated facilities study. Planned activities include the reviewing work products, developing hydrological data, projecting water development, and interpreting the results as they relate to endangered fish flow. The work will include attending meetings, reviewing reports, providing comments, and reporting to the Service and the Water Acquisition Committee.

The Division of Water Resources will provide assistance to the Bureau of Reclamation by providing the Service perspective and input on issues related to the protection and delivery of surplus water in Green Mountain Reservoir water. The work will include attending meetings, reviewing reports, providing comments and reporting to the Service and the Water Acquisition Committee.

The Division of Water Resources will continue to work on protection for endangered fish basin wide.

The Division of Water Resources will continue to coordinate the reviews by the Geomorphology Peer Review Panel.

Serve as Chairman of the Water Acquisition Committee, develop annual updates to the RIPRAP, coordinate scopes of work, develop meeting agendas, distribute meeting material, and conduct meetings.

VII. Study Schedule:

The work will proceed in accordance with the schedules of the various components of the RIPRAP.

VIII. Deliverables:

Given the diverse nature of the work involved, some deliverables are hard to specify. Annual progress reports will be prepared for the Recovery Program. In addition to the Program reports, annual reports will be prepared documenting Ruedi releases and gage operation with the appropriate data. Documents such as appraisal reports, water rights evaluations, and flow analysis will be produced by a water rights consultant under the supervision of the Division of Water Resources.

IX. FY 2001 Budget:

Budget By Task		Budget By Category	
A.	4,000	Labor	\$41,500
B.	14,700	Travel	5,500
C.	5,000	Equip.	3,000
D.	12,500	Other	<u>1,500</u>
E.	<u>15,300</u>	Total	\$51,500
Total	\$51,500		

FY 2002 Budget: \$53,000

X. Reviewer: Water Acquisition Committee.